

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to a non-final Office action dated August 26, 2004. Claims 1-30 were examined. Of those, all claims were rejected on obviousness type double patenting grounds.

Preliminaries

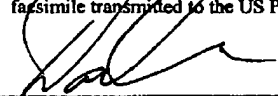
Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner signify consideration of references as listed on the Information Disclosure Statement submitted by Applicant on March 8, 2004 by initialing the PTO Form 1449 included therewith and return a copy of the initialed PTO Form 1449 to Applicant with the next official action.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1-30 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4, 9-14, 20, 46-48, and 51-55 of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,572. A terminal disclaimer accompanies this response, thereby obviating the double patenting rejection.

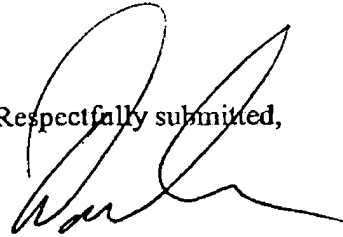
In summary, claims 1-30 are in the case. In light of this response, all claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being	
<input type="checkbox"/>	deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office.
 David W. O'Brien	<u>25-Jan-05</u> Date

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL: _____

Respectfully submitted,



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